

Principal's Fact Sheet for the Educational Support System (ESS)

The goal of the educational support system is to provide students with additional assistance needed for them to succeed or be challenged in the general education environment. This is the collective responsibility of everyone in a school.

Each principal needs to assure that the school's educational support system (ESS):

1. Is supported by a clear school board policy outlining how the district will develop and maintain, in consultation with parents, a comprehensive system of education that will result in all students succeeding in the general education environment.
2. Is designed to provide students with needed accommodations and supplementary aids and services regardless of their eligibility for categorical programs.
3. Is integrated with the general education curriculum.
4. Provides clear procedures and methods for managing students who are disruptive to the learning environment, and provides opportunities for students to learn appropriate behavior.
5. Includes a means to determine on a regular basis the effectiveness of accommodations, supplementary aids and services, and programs and activities in meeting student needs.
6. Includes training for school personnel to increase the capacity of the general education system to address students' needs.
7. Includes collaboration with families, community supports and health and human services.
8. Is described annually to all parents, giving them information about the existence, purpose, and function of the educational support system and educational support team.
9. Includes an effective educational support team (EST).

Each principal needs to assure that the school's educational support team (EST):

1. Meets regularly, and has members from a variety of teaching and support services positions.
2. Considers what supports have already been tried and assists teachers in planning and providing services and accommodations for students in need of classroom supports or enrichment activities.
3. Has a process for developing an individual student EST plan when needed, which includes a system to review, revise, or end the plan.
4. Has a system for referral, follow-up, and tracking the effectiveness of interventions.
5. Has a system to support the implementation of EST plans when students move from grade to grade or from one school to another.
6. Has a system for recording its work.
7. Provides timely referral for special education, Section 504, or limited English evaluation when warranted.
8. Uses data from its work to inform the school's action plan to build overall capacity of the educational support system, and
9. Reports its status to the commissioner each fall.

Each principal needs to respond each fall to a request from the Commissioner of Education on the status of the ESS detailing:

1. Person responsible for the ESS
2. Services, supports, and funding included in the ESS
3. How Medicaid, Act 60 poverty and LEP funds have been used to support the ESS
4. How the school's action plan addresses building the capacity of the ESS

Technical assistance and support in developing effective educational support systems are available from the Department of Education. Contact Bev Heise at (802) 828-0551 or ess_consultants@education.state.vt.us for information and/or visit the ESS web page at http://www.state.vt.us/educ/new/html/pgm_ess.html for links to information and resources.